

input in developing land use plan policy statements and allowing for continued public participation in the planning process. To ensure that all economic, social, ethnic, and cultural view points are properly considered in the updating process, the Town utilizes a variety of public education and citizen participation strategies including public opinion surveys, direct citizen participation, interest group participation, and media participation.

At the beginning of the update process, the Town conducted workshops to discuss land use issues, policies, and implementation strategies. One such workshop, called VISION 2010, was held in November, 1996. In addition to the Board of Commissioners, Planning Board, citizens, and staff, State representatives and planning consultants were used to re-examine each of the Town's land use policies and implementation strategies. The Town also held a public meeting on April 1, 1997 at which time citizens were asked to identify and rank issues as to their determination of importance. In addition, exhibit boards containing policy statements were displayed at Town Hall so that those coming to the building to transact business could comment in writing, on the boards concerning opinions and concerns.

In July, 1997, the Town distributed a public opinion survey. Of the 7,000 surveys distributed, 1,500 (21.4%) were returned by the August cutoff date. Although surveys received after the cutoff date were not included in the percentages quoted in the previous issue areas= BACKGROUND discussion, the staff of the Planning Department reviews surveys received and is charting trends and opinions.

Concerning opportunities to participate in local/community affairs, 65.5% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that citizens have adequate opportunities to participate. Only 11.0% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

#### POLICY

The Town of Kill Devil Hills encourages public participation in all land use decisions and procedure development processes and encourages citizen input via its boards, commissions, and agencies.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The Town will continue to use advertisements in newspapers, radio public service announcements, and direct mailings to announce meetings and encourage